

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/941,573

Examiner

Kimberly D Flynn

Applicant(s)

SHOUJI, TAKESHI

Art Unit

2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an application filed August 30, 2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 8/30/01
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
**ZARNI MAUNG**  
PATENT EXAMINER

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

1. Claims 1-5 are allowed.

### *Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance*

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's invention is drawn to a system for sending e-mail messages to specified destinations after modifying the wordings used in the message according to the social relationship between the sender and the recipient. To accomplish the above function according to the present invention, there is provided a compute program product, which enables the computer to function as the following mechanisms: an address management unit which manages addresses of e-mail recipients in association with the recipients' social relationships with the sender; a message data reception unit which receives a source message; a recipient identifier reception unit which receives recipient identification data which identifies at least one e-mail recipient specified as the destination; a social relation identification unit which identifies the social relationships between the sender and the identified e-mail recipient, by comparing the received recipient identification data with the addresses being managed by the address management means; and message rewriting unit which rewrites the source message according to the social relationship identified by the social relation identification unit.

3. Applicant's Independent claims 1, 4, and 5 each recite, *inter alia*, a social relation identification means for identifying social relationships between the sender and the identified e-

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mail recipient, by comparing the received recipient identification data with the addresses being managed by the address management means; and message rewriting means for rewriting the source message according to the social relationship identified by the social relation identification means. Applicant's invention of claims 1, 4, and 5 comprise a particular combination of elements, which is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

The closest prior art of record Azuma, U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2002/0004822 discloses a system and method of vicariously translating electronic mails for users in that an Internet connection provider translates a part or all of the contents of an electronic mail sent from a user or addressed to a user in the language of the translation destination. Azuma does not teach a social relation identification means for identifying social relationships between the sender and the identified e-mail recipient, by comparing the received recipient identification data with the addresses being managed by the address management means; and message rewriting means for rewriting the source message according to the social relationship identified by the social relation identification means.

4. The dependent claims further limit the independent claims and are considered allowable on the same basis as the independent claims.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

*Conclusion*

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly D Flynn whose telephone number is 571-272-3954.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess can be reached on 703-305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kimberly D Flynn  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2153

KDF

  
ZARNI MAUNG  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER